20th January 1950] [Sri S. B. Adityan]

in the dry districts may not get even this amount in view of their slender resources and the consequent fall in the revenue from those villages. Therefore, the lesser of the two evils, they must go in for. Sir, the Government have done well to see that no choice vests in the officer who is to make the grants as to the basis that should determine the grant. The officer concerned should distribute or divide the available resources of the panchayats on the strength of the population in every village. This arrangement is an insurance against charges of partiality that may be levelled against the officer concerned or the Government. Sir, if hon. Members will look into the original Bill, they will find a provision in it allowing discretion to the Government or the Inspector to make grants. The Government felt since then that there should be certainty in this matter and the grant should be made on a uniform basis throughout the villages.

" Finally, Sir, I may state one thing. Those who are want to find fault with a Bill will always do so irrespective of its merits. For instance, if the Bill is made flexible—that is if discretion is allowed to the Government in certain matters—then they will say and will allege that the Government are trying to have all powers for themselves. Again, if that flexibility is taken away—in the interests of the people and in a limited sphere—they will call it rigid. It is always possible for the advocates and lawyers to turn their arguments in any manner they like and to find fault with any provision whatever may be the merits of it. So, all that was to be considered by the Government was whether to have certain of the provisions flexible or fixed, and what would be more advantageous to the villagers. Ultimately, it was decided in this particular matter, viz., making of grants, that the wishes of the people of the dry areas should be given special consideration and in pursuance of that decision, population has been made the basis. I may point out one instance here. Tanjore is a place which gives a very good yield. If this were taken as the criterion, then the dry districts will get practically nothing. Population, therefore, will render more justice to the dry districts than it does to others.

" In conclusion, I may observe that whatever the angle from which the Bill may be viewed, it must be stated that anxious thought and consideration was given to the various provisions of the Bill, particularly those relating to finance, in order to make the scheme workable."

VI.—MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following messages from His Excellency the Governor of Madras :—

' In pursuance of section 299, sub-section (3), of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby accord my previous sanction for the introduction of the Madras Village Panchayats Bill, 1950, in the Madras Legislative Council.'

[Mr. President] [20th January 1950

In pursuance of section 82, sub-sections (1) and (3), of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Village Panchayats Bill, 1950.''

I now adjourn the House to meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow.''

The House then adjourned.

VII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. *G.O. No. 2557, L.A., dated 21st December 1949, regarding postponement of the date of elections to Ambapuram Panchayat Board (Krishna).*

2. *The Madras Village Panchayats Bill,* 1949 (*L.A. Bill No.* 22 *of* 1949), *as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.*

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS